

Crib Safety Tips and Recall Information



consumer**brief**

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Nothing is more important to New Jersey's parents than the safety and welfare of their children. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (C.P.S.C.) and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs find that it is necessary to inform all parents about the potentially deadly hazards of drop-side cribs. Drop-side cribs have a movable side that slides down to a lower position. Other cribs have movable sides where the top portion of the side folds down to permit easier access to the inside of the crib. Folding-side cribs have not had as many problems as cribs with drop sides.

Between 2000 and 2010, the C.P.S.C. learned of 32 infant and toddler suffocation and strangulation deaths that were caused by or related to drop-side detachments on cribs made by various manufacturers. In addition, during that period the C.P.S.C. received 14 reports of infant fatalities due to entrapment in cribs that could be related to a drop side, but the information obtained in those cases was insufficient to determine if a drop side was involved.

Some of the reported deaths occurred because the drop side became detached without the caregivers noticing the detachment; others occurred after a consumer tried to repair the detached drop side but the repair ultimately failed; and others happened because consumers installed the drop side or drop-side hardware incorrectly. In several of these tragic incidents, the caregivers made serious errors when putting the crib together due to incorrect or confusing instructions. Sometimes the drop side still appeared to function as was intended, but the stress on the crib's hardware led to the drop-side detachment.

RECALL INFORMATION

Since 2005, the C.P.S.C. has issued recalls involving more than seven (7) million cribs. In December 2009, the Ameri-

can Society for Testing of Materials (A.S.T.M.), the group that develops voluntary manufacturing standards for cribs, revised its standard by which it no longer allows the sale of cribs that have a traditional drop side. New mandatory standards for cribs will be established by the end of 2010. Many (but not all) manufacturers have stopped selling drop-side cribs. Here is a partial list of companies that have had cribs recalled since the end of 2009:

C & T International Sorelle Cribs*

Graco Drop-Side Cribs (made by LaJobi Inc.*)

Simplicity Cribs

Generation Worldwide & ChildESIGNS Drop-Side Cribs

Caramia Diane Drop-Side Cribs

Stork Craft Cribs

(* New Jersey-based companies)

For a complete list of cribs recalled by the C.P.S.C., go to www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10225.html.

Continued on back



800-242-5846 › Division of Consumer Affairs

www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov



**New Jersey Division of
Consumer
Affairs**

WHICH TYPES OF CRIBS HAVE SAFETY PROBLEMS?

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs believes that it is important for parents to understand that research has shown that, in general, cribs with drop sides have a tendency to be less structurally sound than cribs with fixed sides, and drop-side cribs are more susceptible to problems from use, movement, storage and assembly.

HOW CAN I, AS A PARENT/CAREGIVER, DETERMINE WHETHER THE CRIB I'VE PURCHASED FOR MY BABY IS SAFE?

Before using any crib, be sure to check the recall list cited on the previous page. Avoid old cribs because they usually do not meet current safety standards. Follow the assembly instructions provided by the manufacturer carefully, taking the time to make sure each part is installed correctly. If you do not understand the directions, or if a part does not fit right or if you have leftover hardware, call the manufacturer for assistance. **DO NOT** use the crib unless these issues have been resolved.

Be sure that all of the visible hardware used for assembling the crib - every screw, bolt, track and clamp - is securely in place. If the crib has a drop side, make sure the drop side is on its track. Tighten any hardware that has come loose. **DO NOT** continue to use any crib with missing, broken or loose parts. **DO NOT** try to fix broken cribs.

Do-it-yourself crib repair can lead to deadly consequences. About 30 percent of crib deaths each year are caused by missing hardware, broken or nonworking parts, or ineffective repairs.

HERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND

- The longer a crib is used, the more wear and tear there will be on hardware and joints, allowing screws to loosen and fall out and plastic parts to flex and break.
- Repeated assembly and disassembly increases the likelihood that crib parts will be damaged or destroyed.
- Wood warps and shrinks over time and glue can become brittle. These problems can lead to joint and slat failures.

IN CONCLUSION

If you own a drop-side crib and decide to stop using it immediately, here's a suggestion. If your baby is less than six (6) months old, and is not yet able to push up to his/her hands and knees, you can put your baby to sleep in a bassinet. Make sure the bassinet has not been recalled (go to www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/bassinets.aspx). You can also use a play yard. Avoid additional bedding such as pillows, thick quilts, comforters or anything plush. If your baby is six (6) months old or more, advice is available. More babies die every year from suffocation in plush sleeping environments than from defective cribs.

It is vital that those of us entrusted with the lives of young children make every effort to protect them both during the activities of the day, and when they are settling down (finally) for a good night's sleep. Paying close attention to the safety aspects of a child's sleeping environment pays a priceless dividend... the inestimable joy of seeing our children grow up to be happy, healthy and productive adults.

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NEWARK

124 Halsey Street

P.O. Box 45025

Newark, NJ 07101

973-504-6200

800-242-5846 (toll free within New Jersey)

CHERRY HILL

2201 Route 38

Suite # 202

Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

856-482-4380

E-Mail: AskConsumerAffairs@lps.state.nj.us

Web site:

www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov

800-242-5846 › Division of Consumer Affairs

www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov



**New Jersey Division of
Consumer
Affairs**